APOCALYPTIC HORSEPLAY

BY BOREDMAN

CHAPTER VII: DESTINY

FATHER MATTHEW TO COUNCIL LEADERSHIP: YESTERDAY, 11.45 PM

VATICAN CITY
ROME, ITALY

"MISSION REPORT."

"FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL HEARING WHICH DENIED US ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN OUR SEARCH OF THE ALLEGED HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE, DR. VON BELLSING AND I SOUGHT OUT THE HEAD OF THE ORDER OF SAINT SEBASTIAN AND OFFERED TO JOIN FORCES WITH HIS INTERVENTION AGENTS."

"AS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCOVERED, HIS ORDER WAS CONDUCTING AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION WHICH SHARED SEVERAL ELEMENTS WITH OUR OWN (OR PERHAPS USED OUR OWN FINDINGS ENTIRELY, AS DR. BELLSING WOULD CLAIM ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS)."
"WE ALL AGREED A PARTNERSHIP WOULD BENEFIT OUR RESEARCH."

"WHILE WE JOURNEYED BACK TO THE COUNTY TOWN OF BERKSHIRE HOWEVER, ONE OF THE ORDER OPERATIVES WAS KILLED IN ACTION. THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INCIDENT WERE VERY TROUBLING, BUT UPON LEARNING OF HER AGENT'S DEMISE, THE LEAD INVESTIGATOR LADY BABEL REFUSED TO FILE A REPORT."
"LATER ON, A SUPERNATURAL PLAGUE OF MONSTROUS PROPORTION BEGAN TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE CITY, TURNING INHABITANTS INTO DEFORMED AND FERAL CREATURES. ONCE AGAIN, WE URGED LADY BABEL TO INFORM THE VATICAN, TO NO AVAIL."

"THIS TIME HOWEVER, DR. VON BELLSING DEFIED HER DIRECTIVE AND CONTACTED HER SUPERIOR TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE."

"MASTER OZZAM QUICKLY FLEW TO THE ISLAND, BUT UPON HIS ARRIVAL, HE EXPRESSED THE SAME DESIRE NOT TO MAKE THE COUNCIL LEADERSHIP INFORMED OF OUR FINDINGS, CLAIMING IT WOULD SURELY SERVE THE ENEMY'S PURPOSE."

"WE WENT ALONG WITH HIS DECISION, DESPITE OUR BETTER JUDGMENT."

"THINGS FURTHER ESCALATED WHEN LADY BABEL REVEALED HERSELF AN ADEPT OF WITCHCRAFT, A DISCOVERY WHICH WAS MET WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE."

"QUICKLY RESTRAINED, STRIPPED OF ALL TITLES AND PRIVILEGES, SHE BECAME A PRISONER OF THE ORDER, FORCED TO COOPERATE WITH THE INVESTIGATION UNDER THREAT OF EXECUTION."

"WHEN MASTER OZZAM ONCE AGAIN REFUSED TO REPORT THIS DEVELOPMENT AND DENIED LADY BABEL HER COUNCIL HEARING, DR. BELLSING AND I OPENLY OBJECTED. BUT THE SEARCH FOR THE HORSEMEN, OR MORE ACCURATELY FOR THE ANTICHRIST, HAD BECOME OUR SUPERIOR'S ONLY CONCERN, DRIVING HIM AS FAR AS USING BABEL'S MAGIC TO TRANSPORT ONE OF HIS OWN AGENTS TO SOME UNKNOWN LOCATION WITH LETHAL DIRECTIVES."

"FINALLY, WHEN VON BELLSING ATTEMPTED TO FREE LADY BABEL FROM HER RESTRAINT, MASTER OZZAM REVOKED HIS MEMBERSHIP AND ORDERED ME TO PREVENT FURTHER INTERFERENCE."

"THIS TIME, HOWEVER, I TOO MUST DEFY HIS COMMAND."

"AS I WRITE THESE WORDS, LADY BABEL IS AT THE MERCY OF THIS FUNDAMENTALIST, AND IF OUR SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT, BOTH HAVE NOW GONE TO FACE THE BEAST AND HER FOUR HORSEMEN HEAD-ON."

"I MAY NOT HAVE ANY PROOF OF THESE EVENTS TO OFFER AT THIS TIME, BUT I IMPLORE YOU: FOR THIS WOMAN'S SAKE, AND PERHAPS THE ENTIRE WORLD'S, YOU MUST SEND ALL AVAILABLE FORCES TO OUR LOCATION IMMEDIATELY."

"IT MAY BE AGAINST PROTOCOL, BUT AS I NOW REALIZE, NOW MORE THAN EVER, OUR FAITH MUST LIE WITH PEOPLE, NOT WITH RULES."
"DO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES I MADE."
MESSAGE ENDS.
GRML

DR MACUSA, WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?

I HATE TO SAY IT, HIGH COUNSELOR. BUT AS LITTLE FAITH AS I HAVE IN VON BELLSING'S ABILITIES, I DISTRUST MASTER OZZAM EVEN MORE.

EVER SINCE HE ORDAINED THAT MYSTERIOUS PRIESTESS OF HIS, HIS ORDER HAS GROWN SECRETIVE AND UNRULY.

HE COULD HAVE RISEN TO BECOME HIGH COUNSELOR DECADES AGO. YET HE'S ALWAYS ENDEAVORED TO KEEP HIMSELF REMOVED FROM INTERNAL COUNCIL AFFAIRS AND SCRUTINY.

A ROGUE INVESTIGATION WOULD HARDLY SOUND OUT OF CHARACTER FOR HIM.

I HAVE TO AGREE. THE MAN ALWAYS SEEMED TO HAVE HIS OWN AGENDA.

HAS THERE BEEN ANY OTHER REPORT OF SUPERNATURAL ACTIVITY IN ENGLAND?
A STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED IN BERKSHIRE A FEW DAYS AGO.
READING IS BELIEVED TO HAVE EXPERIENCED A CIVIL UPRISING. BUT NO MENTION OF PARANORMAL AGENTS.
SHOW ME.

AS THE TOWN REMAINS SEALED OFF BY THE THAMES VALLEY POLICE, A STATEMENT HAS YET TO BE ISSUED BY THE ARMED FORCES REGARDING THE CURRENT STATE AND EXACT NATURE OF THE ONGOING CONFLICT.
WE'RE GETTING WORDS THAT ADDITIONAL TROOPS HAVE ENTERED THE MINSTER TOWN EARLIER THIS MORNING. OUR CAMERA CREW IS ON THE SCENE.
VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED.

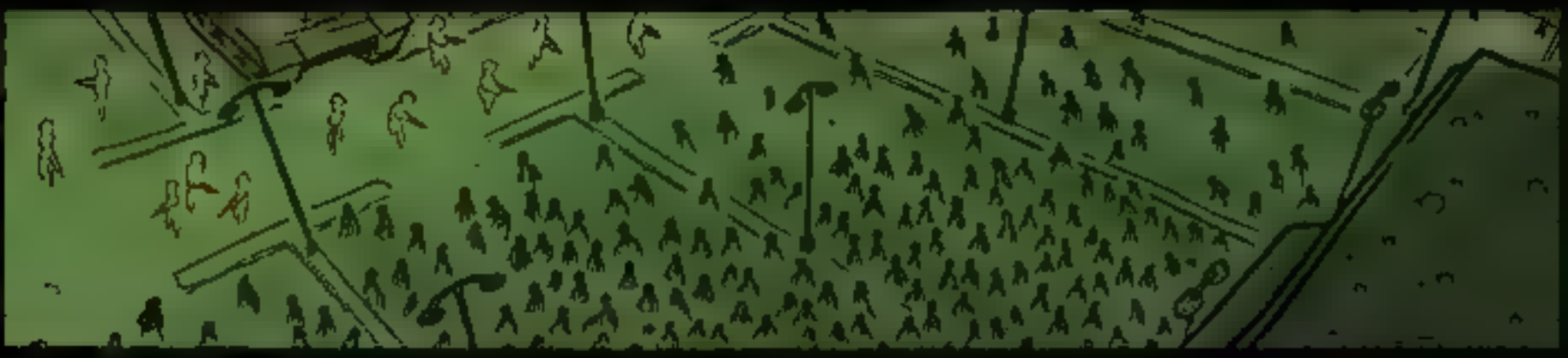
YES... HUM...
A-AS YOU CAN SEE, THE SITUATION HERE IS FAR WORSE THAN WE WERE PREVIOUSLY LED TO BELIEVE.
THERE... THERE IS NO SIGN OF A TERRORIST MILITIA, OR ANY ARMED VIOLENCE IN THE STREETS. THE BODIES...
THE BODIES ALL DISPLAY SIGNS OF... OF PHYSICAL... HEM...

DEY ALL BLOODY CHEWED UP, MATE!
DERE'S SOME PROPAH ROMERO-TYPE SHIT GOIN' DOWN!
OY! SHUT YOUR TRAPS BACK THERE !

WE FOUND THEM.

MY GOD
...

IT... HEM... IT APPEARS THE SOLDIERS HAVE ENCOUNTERED A GATHERING OF SOME KIND.



THESE PEOPLE ALL APPEAR UNARMED, MANY OF THEM INJURED... BUT...

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THEY'RE JUST STANDING THERE.
OH YEA. JUST YA WAIT.
DEY'LL BE COMIN' FOR AR BLOODY BRAINS IN A MINUTE.

ALRIGHT, LISTEN UP EVERYONE!
WE ARE NOT HERE TO HARM YOU, BUT YOU ALL NEED TO DISPERSE IMMEDIATELY!
I REPEAT: RETURN TO YOUR HOMES, AND AWAIT INSTRUCTION!
WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU!
HURT ME?

I DO NOT FEAR PAIN, HUMAN.
?
NOT ANYMORE.

MY HEART'S ALREADY BROKEN. YOU SEE.
STABBED MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT...
EVENTUALLY, SOMETHING OOZED FROM THE CRACKS AND POURED OUT MY EYES.

AS IT LEAKED DOWN MY FACE, I FELT IT WASH AWAY THE GUILT, FEAR...

AND SORROW.

TcHoK

I THINK IT GAVE ME THE ONE THING I HAD UNKNOWINGLY BEEN LACKING ALL THIS TIME.

CLARITY.

WANT MORE?
TAKE YOUR PICK:
PATREON.COM/BOREDMAN
INSTAGRAM.COM/TBOREDMAN
FACEBOOK.COM/THEBOREDMAN
BOREDMAN.DEVIANTART.COM
TBOREDMAN.TUMBLR.COM
ETSY.COM/SHOP/BOREDMANART